



SPRUCE UP YOUR HOME HOME IMPROVEMENT LOANS

THE BLOOMINGTON HOUSING AND Redevelopment Authority (HRA) will be accepting applications through March 30 for its Home Improvement Deferred Loan Program.

Loans of up to \$35,000 are available to Bloomington homeowners. There are no monthly payments. Repayment occurs when the home is sold, transferred or conveyed. Interest is charged at an annual rate of 5 percent of the original loan principal for the first 10 years. No additional interest accrues after 10 years.

A lead risk assessment is required for all homes built before 1978.

Loans are offered to help maintain the condition of housing and neighborhoods. Applications are ranked and processed according to need.

Eligible repairs include replacement of roofs, electrical and plumbing systems, gutters, windows, doors, insulation, siding, soffits and fascia, exterior painting and foundation, sidewalk or step repairs.

Ineligible repairs include decorating, additions, finishing basements, remodeling and garage construction. Homeowner labor is no longer permitted, due to federal lead paint regulations.

To apply for a Home Improvement Deferred Loan, you must be the owner-occupant of your home and have sufficient equity to cover the loan amount. *Income guidelines apply. See table below.*

INCOME GUIDELINES

Persons in household*	Maximum gross income**
1	\$41,700
2	\$47,700
3	\$53,650
4	\$59,600
5	\$64,350
6	\$69,150
7	\$73,900
8 or more	\$78,650

* Includes all residents of household, related and unrelated, including renters.

** Subject to change.



Loan applications will be accepted at the HRA office at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, until Friday, March 30. For more information or to receive an application, call 952-563-8937.

COMMUNITY NEWS

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE of Bloomington's parks is underway. The City is currently undertaking a comprehensive update of Bloomington's Park Master Plan that will establish:

- A 20-year vision for park, recreation, open space, cultural and historical preservation, public art, and trail and bikeway systems.
- A detailed vision implementation program that includes estimated annual costs and funding sources.

- Capital funding priorities for park improvements and acquisitions.
- Programming priorities for recreation, historical and cultural systems.
- Policies and priorities for preserving natural features and amenities.

A focus group session was held last December to prioritize key issues and opportunities for the update of the Park Master Plan. In January, the City Council formed a Citizen's Task Force that will meet throughout the year to provide input on park and program needs, financing of park improvements and acquisitions, and needs for additional park facilities.

To gather public input, a community open house will be held on **Thursday, March 1, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**, in the Council Chambers at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road. Public input will also be solicited via an online survey and park stakeholder meetings. A draft Park Master Plan will be reviewed at a community open house later this summer.



For more information, call Randy Quale, Parks and Recreation Manager, at 952-563-8877, e-mail parksrec@ci.bloomington.mn.us or visit the City's Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Park Master Plan.



BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY

LONG MEADOW GUN CLUB - 1903



Minnesota Historical Society

AT THE TURN OF THE LAST CENTURY, LONG MEADOW GUN CLUB WAS A LANDMARK near the Minnesota River bottoms in Bloomington. It overlooked Long Meadow Lake, a 1,500-acre, shallow lake located on the Minnesota River east of the Cedar Avenue Bridge. Long Meadow Lake has long been a favorite for bird-watchers. Dr. Thomas Roberts (1858 - 1946), former director of the Museum of Natural History, regularly sponsored Memorial Day field trips and chicken dinners to the Long Meadow Gun Club to mark the end of his ornithology classes. Dr. Roberts studied birds found near the Gun Club, including the yellow-headed blackbird.

PASSPORT SERVICES NOW AVAILABLE AT CIVIC PLAZA



ARE THERE TRAVEL plans in your future? Will you need a passport? The City Clerk's Office, located in

Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, is now a designated Passport Acceptance Agent.

Due to new federal Homeland Security regulations, the City was unable to continue offering passport services at Motor Vehicle. The new service at Civic Plaza will again provide access for citizens who live or work in Bloomington. Passport service hours are Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Passport photo service is also available.

For information, call 952-563-8700 or visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Passport. For application forms, information on documentation required, fees, and other passport and international travel information, visit www.travel.state.gov.

CONTINUING SERVICE SEAL BECOMES FULL-TIME CHIEF

FIRE CHIEF

Ulrie Seal was recently appointed to serve as Bloomington's full-time chief. Seal oversees the



Fire Department's operations and 135 volunteer firefighters. With Seal's appointment, Bloomington joins the cities of Apple Valley, Eagan, Eden Prairie, Lakeville and Savage that have all-volunteer fire departments with full-time chiefs.

Seal has more than 30 years in fire service. He has been a member of Bloomington's Fire Department since 1976, serving as firefighter, captain, deputy chief and chief. He was also a full-time member of the Minneapolis Fire Department for 26 years where he served as firefighter, captain, battalion chief, deputy chief and assistant chief.

In 2003, Bloomington Rotary Daymakers honored Seal with the Daymaker of the Year Award, calling him a "renowned expert" in technical rescue, hazardous materials and weapons of mass destruction. Seal also earned the professional designation of "Chief Fire Officer" by the International Association of Fire Chiefs, one of approximately 200 fire chiefs throughout the country to receive this designation.

Seal said serving in a full-time capacity will enable him to further enhance service to the community.

"I look forward to addressing the challenges that the Fire Department will face in the coming years," Seal said. "I will be able to expand my work in emergency preparedness, which includes working on disaster response and disease outbreaks."

Seal began as full-time Fire Chief on February 1.